

Choosing a Thesis Advisor

Process:

Students are required to find a thesis advisor in advance of their thesis semester, in other words, in the semester preceding their thesis prep term*. This means that students must begin to think about their thesis topics and possible corresponding advisors at the start of their options studios cycle, or even earlier.

While students are allowed and encouraged to reach out to faculty at any point in their program to explore the possibilities of partnering with them as advisor, the official advisee-advisor matching process is done through a centralized process and in a specific timeframe (December or May, depending on one's intended thesis semester). Students will submit a thesis proposal and a list of their top choices for thesis advisors to the Architecture Department via an online form. The department will then reach out to all faculty who have been requested and ask them to review their students' thesis proposals. Faculty will then select which students are suitable matches for them and we will make those advising relationships official.

Though nothing is official until the form is submitted and we receive confirmation from different faculty, students are encouraged to touch base with their intended advisors beforehand to introduce themselves and their projects to them. It is important that you attempt to meet with prospective advisors in advance of submitting this official request. Advisors are more likely to accept advisees if they have at least cursory knowledge of you and your work.

Guidelines:

To make this process as simple and effective as possible, students should keep in mind the following guidelines when choosing and approaching a faculty member to ask them to be their advisors.

- 1) **Have a compelling and well-thought-out thesis proposal.** Exciting and detailed proposals are much more likely to inspire confidence and interest from faculty.
- 2) **Match your proposal to the correct faculty member.** Instructors are more likely to advise on a thesis topic aligned with their own academic interests and expertise.
- 3) **Find a full-time faculty member who will be in residence during your thesis semester.** Visitors and part-time faculty are normally not eligible to be thesis advisors. Be aware that some faculty are in residence at the GSD every other semester or could be on sabbatical in a given year.
- 4) **You can have an advisor from Landscape or UPD, but use caution.** Be sure to work through logistics between departments, such as scheduling differences. Students should also be careful that their thesis do not stray out the discipline of architecture, as their project will be judged on its architectural merits.
- 5) **Having two advisors is allowed, but identifying a primary advisor is strongly encouraged.** The challenges of coordinating with your thesis advisor's schedule will be compounded when coordinating with two faculty members. Students should consider having one primary advisor and consulting with other faculty members unofficially.

*For example, students completing thesis in Spring 2025 would need to have thesis advisors by the end of Spring 2024; or students doing thesis in Fall 2024 would need to have a thesis advisors by the end of Fall 2023. By default, MArch I students are scheduled to do their theses in the Fall, unless their thesis semester is deferred via "splitting" or from taking a leave of absence. The default thesis semester for MArch II students, is in the Spring.

Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Prospective Architecture Thesis Advisors

Bechthold, Martin

Burchard, Jeffry

Canty, Sean

Chang, Michelle

Christoforetti, Elizabeth

Cohen, Preston Scott

Eigen, Ed

French, Jenny

Gang, Jeanne

Garcia del Castillo Lopez, Jose Luis

Grinham, Jonathan

Hays, Michael

Hoberman, Chuck

Holder, Andrew

Howeler, Eric

Johnston, Sharon

Kaijima, Sawako

Kara, Hanif

La, Grace

Lee, Mark

Legendre, George

Leon Crespo, Ana Maria

Lott, Jon

Malkawi, Ali

May, John

Mehrotra, Rahul

Mori, Toshiko

Mostafavi, Mohsen

Moussavi, Farshid

Naginski, Erika

Picon, Antoine

Reidel, Jacob

Rowe, Peter

Samuelson, Holly

Sayegh, Allen

Smith, Christine

Tato, Belinda

Waldheim, Charles

Whittaker, Beth

Witt, Andrew

Witte, Ron